

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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O 251325Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3459

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BU, US, PDIP

SUBJECT: ACCREDITATION OF CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, A.I.

1. CITING ARTICLE 19 OF VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, BULGARIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS TAKEN POSITION THAT MY DESIGNATION AS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IS NOT VALID. WE INFORMED GOB OF MY DESIGNATION BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE OF AUGUST 23 OVER MY INITIALS FOLLOWING DEPARTURE OF CHARGE HARVEY FELDMAN. MFA PROTOCOL INFORMED EMBASSY AUG 24 THAT THEY WOULD BE UNABLE TO ACCEPT NOTE WITH MY SIGNATURE CLEARING MATERIALS THROUGH CUSTOMS.

2. ACTING DCM SIMPSON CALLED AT MFA AUG 25 TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF SITUATION. PROTOCOL OFFICER BOTEV SAID GOB POSITION WAS THAT ONLY AN ACCREDITED HEAD-OF-MISSION OR DEPARTMENT OF STATE COULD DESIGNATE CHARGE, AND, WITH DEPARTURE OF AMBASSADOR HERZ, WHO HAD DESIGNATED FELDMAN AS CHARGE, FURTHER DESIGNATION COULD BE MADE ONLY BY DEPARTMENT, ACCORDING GOB INTERPRETATION OF VIENNA CONVENTION.

3. NOTING THAT WE RESERVED OUR POSITION ON THIS QUESTION WHILE SEEKING INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT, SIMPSON EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MFA WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY INTERFERE WITH NORMAL
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OPERATIONS OF EMBASSY BY HOLDING UP SHIPMENTS OR OTHERWISE DETERRING CONDUCT OF RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY CONSIDERING WARM REMARKS PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV HAD RECENTLY MADE REGARDING OUR RELATIONS AT TIME OF AMBASSADOR HERZ'S DEPARTURE, AND IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF OUR NEW AMBASSADOR. BOTEV RESPONDED THAT HE COULD NOT MAKE THIS DETERMINATION HIMSELF BUT WOULD ADVISE EMBASSY AS SOON AS DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED. HE GAVE

IMPRESSION THAT MATTER WOULD BE RESOLVED QUICKLY.

4. IF GOB INTERPRETATION OF VIENNA CONVENTION IS CORRECT, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT WE BE INSTRUCTED TO DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO MFA, UNDER COVER OF TRANSMITTAL LETTER FROM CHARGE TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

5. QUOTE THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA AND HAS THE HONOR TO INFORM THE MINISTRY THAT, FROM AUGUST 22, 1977 UNTIL THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS OF AMBASSADOR RAYMOND L. GARTHOFF, COUNSELOR CHARLES T. MAGEE WILL SERVE AS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, A.I. OF THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN SOFIA. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. UNQUOTE.

6. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE QUICK DEPARTMENT RESPONSE. WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT BULGARIANS ARE JUST BEING BUREAUCRATIC, NOT PROVOCATIVE, BUT THE INCONVENIENCE TO THE EMBASSY IS THE SAME.

7. EMBASSY WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE BEING POUCHED COPY OF VIENNA CONVENTION.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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